GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3241
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2007
SETTING UP OF AGRICULTURAL OUTLETS AT RAILWAY STATIONS
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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways propose to set up outlets for farmers to sell agricultural products at railway stations in the country ;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made in this regard so far;

(c) whether various companies have applied for setting up such outlets;

(d) if so, the names of those companies alongwith locations for which they have opted for setting up of such outlets;

(e) the number of railway stations where this scheme is likely to be implemented;

(f) whether the scheme encourages monopoly of certain companies in vegetable trade and adversely affect poor vegetable vendors; and

(g) if so, the safeguard measures taken by the Railways in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) & (b) It has been decided to explore the feasibility of additional transport volumes by leveraging surplus railway land through development of Agro- retail outlets and supply chains.

(c) & (d) Although a number of companies have evinced interest, the interest is of an exploratory nature at this stage. The Expression of Interest, seeking relevant information, is yet to be invited.

(e) It is premature to indicate the number of railway stations at this stage.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.